

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00371 151542Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 151437Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6975

INFO :AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 2829

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 371

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY UK UT

SUBJECT: CYPRUS - TURKISH REFUGEES ON SBA'S

REF: LONDON 571

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN VISITED AT MID DAY TODAY (JANUARY 15) BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WHO DELIVERED A MESSAGE FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN. ACCORDING TO BITSIOS, THE ESSENCE OF THE MESSAGE WAS THAT THE BRITISH HAVE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN RELEASING THE TURKISH REFUGEES FROM THE SBA'S.

2. BITSIOS SAID HE HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE BRITISH HAD DECIDED TO GO AHEAD. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR THAT THE GREEK SIDE HAD OF COURSE BEEN AWARE OF TURKISH PRESSURES ON LONDON BUT HAD HOPED AND EXPECTED THAT THE QUESTION OF MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES -- ALL REFUGEES, TURK OR GREEK, NO MATTER WHERE LOCATED ON CYPRUS - WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CLERIDES AND DENKTASH IN NICOSIA. INDEED, BITSIOS SAID, HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT DENKTASH HAD AGREED TO NEGOTIATE ON THIS POINT. MOVEMENT OF THE TURKS IN THE SBA'S COULD THEN BE RELATED TO A COMPANION MOVEMENT BY GREEK REFUGEES ON THE ISLAND.

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3. BITSIOS FELT THE BRITISH DECISION WAS MOST UNHELPFUL AND NOT LIKELY TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH NEGOTIATIONS NOR CONDUCIVE TO THE KIND OF EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS THAT THE GREEKS COULD ACCEPT. HE ALSO NOTED WITH SOME ACERBITY THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO KEEP THIS INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL BUT THAT IT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN GIVEN TO THE TURKS IN ANKARA YESTERDAY AND NEWS REPORTS FROM ANKARA THIS MORNING -- WHICH, ACCORDING TO BITSIOS, WERE ATTRIBUTED TO BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCES IN ANKARA -- HAD ALREADY MADE IT PUBLIC.

4. BITSIOS SAID HE WAS TELLING ME THIS IN ORDER THAT I BE "FULLY BRIEFED" ON WHAT WAS GOING ON IN CONNECTION WITH THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS.

5. I DID NOT THINK I SHOULD TRY AND JUSTIFY OR DEFEND THE BRITISH DECISION, THE MORE SO SINCE THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR--WHO MUST HAVE BEEN ARMED WITH THE FACTS AND THE FULL RATIONALE--HAD JUST BEEN TO SEE BITSIOS.

6. I INDICATED TO BITSIOS THAT I WOULD PASS THIS INFORMATION TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY FOR THE SECRETARY'S INFORMATION.
KUBISCH

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